

Clara Barton

Kindly keep for
Notation for reference
to nomination of Clara Barton
to Hall of Fame.

In Washington, May 21, 1931, this Nation and the world weighed the Life of Clara Barton.

The occasion, 50 years after the greatest act of her life, was The 50th Anniversary of Clara Barton's Foundation of The American Red Cross (1881), followed by her extension of the International Red Cross into Peace as well as war (1884). (Convention of The International Red Cross).

The Tribunal weighing this estimate consisted of two latest successive Presidents of the United States, - one President Franklin D. Roosevelt, also contemporaneous President; one Ex-President Herbert Hoover, the former President of our Red Cross, and Vice President today; - the Chief Justice of the United States, also now Vice President of our Red Cross, - and the Representative of the International Committee of the International Red Cross of Geneva.

As authoritatively reported in May 22, 1931, N. Y. Times, their estimate was as follows:

Ex-President Herbert Hoover: "In her own life and in her own person Clara Barton was all that the Red Cross was to become - one of the most beautiful flowers of the American Spirit and the American Democracy -- . This combination of the warm heart and cool head in action is a perpetual source of just pride to the American People for it represents them at their best - It sprang from the mind and heart of a woman --- (from) years of evolution of an impulse and an idea and a method to produce this greatest institution in alleviation of human suffering we have ever known. -- The magnificent structure grew up around Miss Barton's passionate pity for the sick and the distressed and her practical genius and energy in their relief."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Her fearlessness on the field of combat in the Civil War and her work for suffering humanity place her among the heroines of America -- . She will always rank as a leader in American Public Service -- . Monuments of stone, tablets of bronze will rise to her memory -- . Her best and highest tribute - will be - to care for those who suffer. - Clara Barton was more than Battlefield Angel, more than Founder of a great Society of millions of men and women because it was her conception that the Red Cross should function in peace as well as war which opened a new ideal of citizenship and Government to this nation. --- To this high aim, following her footsteps we must devote our every resource."

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes of The United States Supreme Court: "We trace the inspiration of the movement to two great souls - Henri Dunant - and Clara Barton, her unwearying and devoted service prefiguring the inestimable activity of the Red Cross - the finest effective expression of the American heart."

Massachusetts Governor Richard Ely: "Countless thousands, will pilgrimage through the years to that Shrine, to honor the Greatest Mother in the World - Angel of Mercy and Peace, dreamer of a new Internationalism before whose prophetic vision the war drums throb no longer and battle flags are furled."

In April 1912 at Clara Barton's Death, the Literary Digest digesting nearly 2700 American papers and journals, brought this as the American estimate: "Our Greatest National Heroine."

In July 1937 (Reader's Digest): "Clara Barton - born Christmas Day 1821 - one of the few persons in the history of the human race not miserably unworthy of the comparison, which that anniversary invites. -- She suffered for others." Donald Culross Peattie, (Also Literary Digest, July 1937.)

Representing the American Press: - The New York Times declared: (Editorial) "Clara Barton died nearly twenty years ago - but she is among our American immortals. - She owes that immortality to the enduring institution which she founded fifty years ago. It is hardly conceivable that the American Red Cross will not live as long as the Republic. - Thanks to her zeal, America now takes the lead in the movement of mercy. - As founder of the Institution which has furnished America, and through America the world, with a channel for voluntary gifts and skilled medical, nursing and social service, she deserves the lasting memory which she is assured. Moving among the battle's wounded and dying, she became the prophetess of a ministry which will be needed even when wars cease altogether - of a volunteer service in peace which is the price of a free society."

At today's crisis of International War to whose sufferers we go, we Americans who believe in Clara Barton's Mercy send this memo unsigned to you without pressure group obligation, either personal, political, institutional or official. We believe you will agree that the Election of Clara Barton to the Hall of Fame will help keep alive again her cry as to The Red Cross' Organ of Mercy:

"I will not desert the pact."

"I will not leave my country in the list of barbarians."

"I will plant the flag of humanity by the Stars and Stripes."